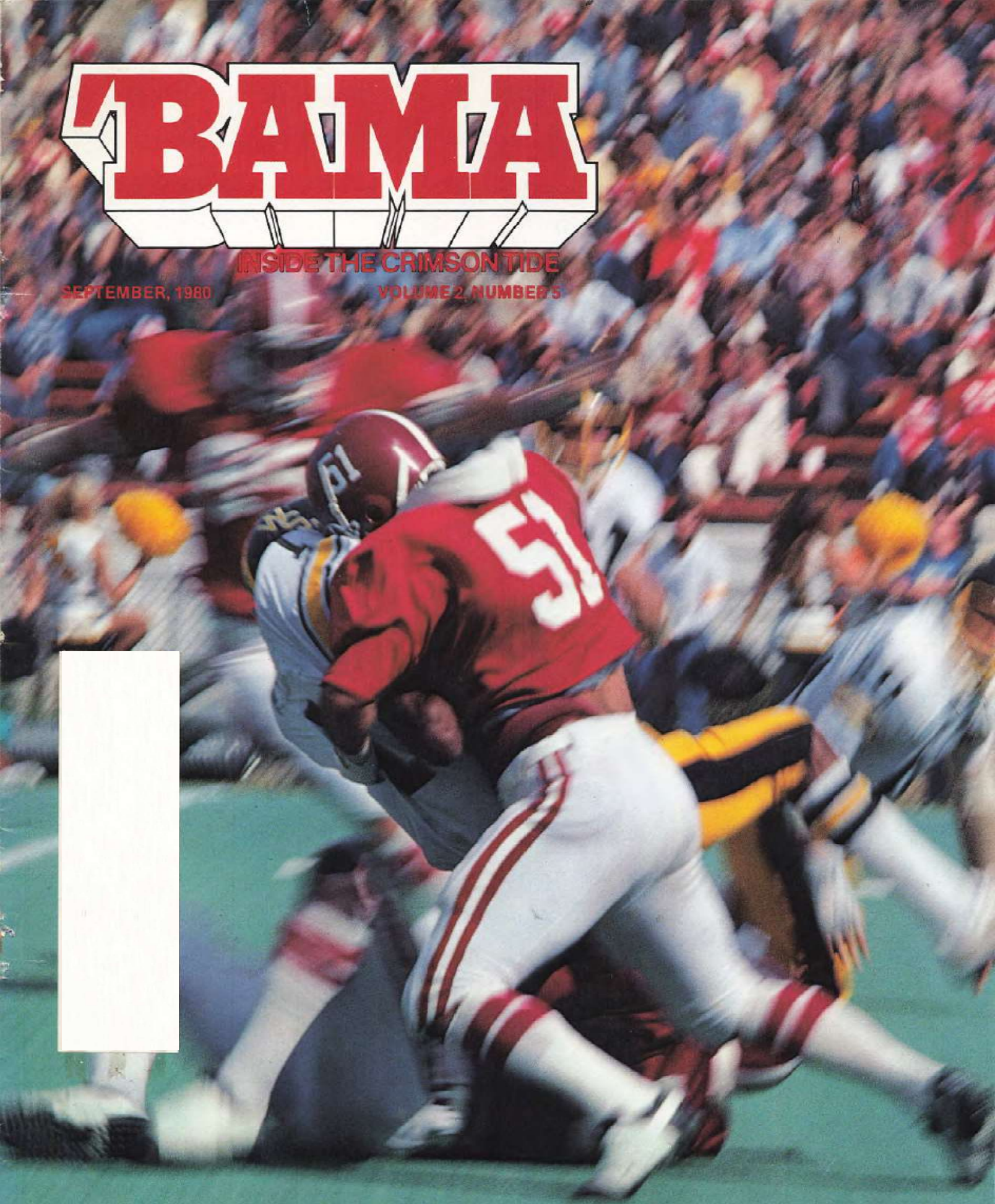
BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

SEPTEMBER, 1980 VOLUME 2, NUMBER 5



Gary DeNiro: The Other End

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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER, 1980 VOLUME 2, NUMBER 5

On the cover: Alabama defensive end Gary DeNiro is described by his coach, Sylvester Croom, as "a contact player."

Joel Barnes Photo

Page 9

Page 12

Page 24

Wraps Coming Off Tide 4

The 1980 version of the Alabama Crimson Tide is wrapping up preparations for the season-opener against Georgia Tech and there's the usual curiosity about what a new football year will bring. **by Kirk McNair**

Tiders In The Pros 9

While Alabama football is primarily a means to an end for Crimson Tide student-athletes, for a reasonably large number there's more football ahead. Bama is well-represented in the NFL. **by Gary Stogner**

Bart Krout:
The Best Is Yet To Come 12

Alabama tight end Bart Krout was the state's top prep prospect when he finished his career at Berry High School in Birmingham in 1977. Now he's a top candidate to take over one of Bama's vacant front line positions. **by Hank Brownstone**

Gary DeNiro:
Alabama's Other End 17

Alabama's senior defensive end, Gary DeNiro, is replacing one All-America and playing opposite another, but he's not concerned about lack of recognition. He just wants one more national title. **by Kirk McNair**

Injuries Appear Well-Healed 21

It appears to have been a very good summer for getting over aches and pains for Alabama football players. Tiders reported in with most injuries healed.

History of Alabama Athletics
Tide Honors Last Wade Team 24

Alabama's first great football era was that of Wallace Wade, 1923-30. His last team undefeated and untied, including a Rose Bowl victory. On the 50th anniversary of that team, Alabama plans a celebration. **by Kirk McNair**

The Departments

Letters 23 Scorecard 28 Opponents 30

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Wraps Coming Off '80 Tide

by Kirk McNair

Alabama is about to unveil its 1980 model Crimson Tide, one that is expected to follow the current trend in automobiles—less get up and go. However, indications are that Bama may be a little more potent than anticipated. Either that or coach Bryant has as little depth on defense as he's been complaining about.

Just one week into contact work, the Tide showed how quickly things can come together. Now, if Bama could just meet defenses no better than the Tide's second best and offenses no better than Alabama's second teamers, that third straight national championship would be in the bag.

Alabama's first offense—even without Don Jacobs, Major Ogilvie and Joe Jones—scored almost at will on the Tide's second defense in the first full-scale scrimmage work of the fall. Meanwhile, the Tide's first defense—even without Byron Braggs, Warren Lyles and Thomas Boyd—allowed Alabama's down the line offense a handful of first downs and only three points, those attributable to a kicking game mistake.

Of course, it's not realistic to expect ALL Alabama opposition to be no better than Crimson Tide second teamers. Indeed, there's no reason to believe that Bama will have it easy against any opponent. Even the enemy camps point out the pitfalls of such thinking. New Georgia Tech coach Bill Curry is grateful that his first head coaching job has him going against the defending national championship team because he knows that his team will be highiy-motivated. And players throughout the Southeastern Conference have been quoted as saying as this is the year their teams can go 11-0 or win the conference championship. One Ole Miss player went so far as to say "Anyone can beat Alabama." (When he said it the emphasis was probably on the word "can," but when Bama coaches read it to Tide players the emphasis will be on the words "anyone," "beat" and "Alabama.")

Alabama had one full week of two-a-day drills with contact work in the afternoon before classes began at the university, cutting Bama back to one practice a day for the last two weeks of pre-season preparation. As is almost always the case, injuries have been a part of Bama's football story. Fortunately, in the early going, most were minor. Ogilvie had a slight muscle pull, Boyd aggravated a back injury, Lyles and Braggs had slight leg injuries. All were expected back in plenty of time to prepare for Georgia Tech. The most serious injuries to those expected to have a role with the Tide this year were to running back Jeff Fagan (shoulder) and split end Tim Clark (hand). Additionally, muscle pulls to fullbacks Mitch Ferguson and Charlie Williams have resulted in senior Billy Jackson returning to being primarily a fullback, as he was as a sophomore.

Although quarterback Don Jacobs was held out of the Tide's first full scrimmage, he has had some contact and has responded well. "The first time I got hit it hurt, but the second time I didn't think about it," says Don. "I also ran the play I got hurt on last year and it went perfectly, so I think I've worked through the mental part of coming back."

Coach Bryant said after a week of work that he was no longer worried that quarterback would not be in winning hands. In addition to Jacobs, Alan Gray has run the team well and Ken Coley has been one of the top surprises on the team. One freshman will probably also stay in the quarterback picture and it will probably be either Paul Carruth or Walter Lewis.

Coley was noted primarily as a punt return man last year as a freshman before being injured against Tennessee, forcing him to miss spring training. He was also used sparingly as a backup man at defensive halfback. However, in the three weeks before the opener last year he also worked at quarterback and did well, so his achievements this fall are a surprise to observers rather than to Tide coaches.

While the efforts of the quarterbacks

Left, Tommy Wilcox (center) is happy to have been returned to his spot in the Alabama defense, a move made possible by the effective performances of Alabama quarterbacks. Right, Bama head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant doesn't miss a thing as he observes the Tide's fall work from the tower that's almost as famous as he is. Joel Barnes Photos

TIDE

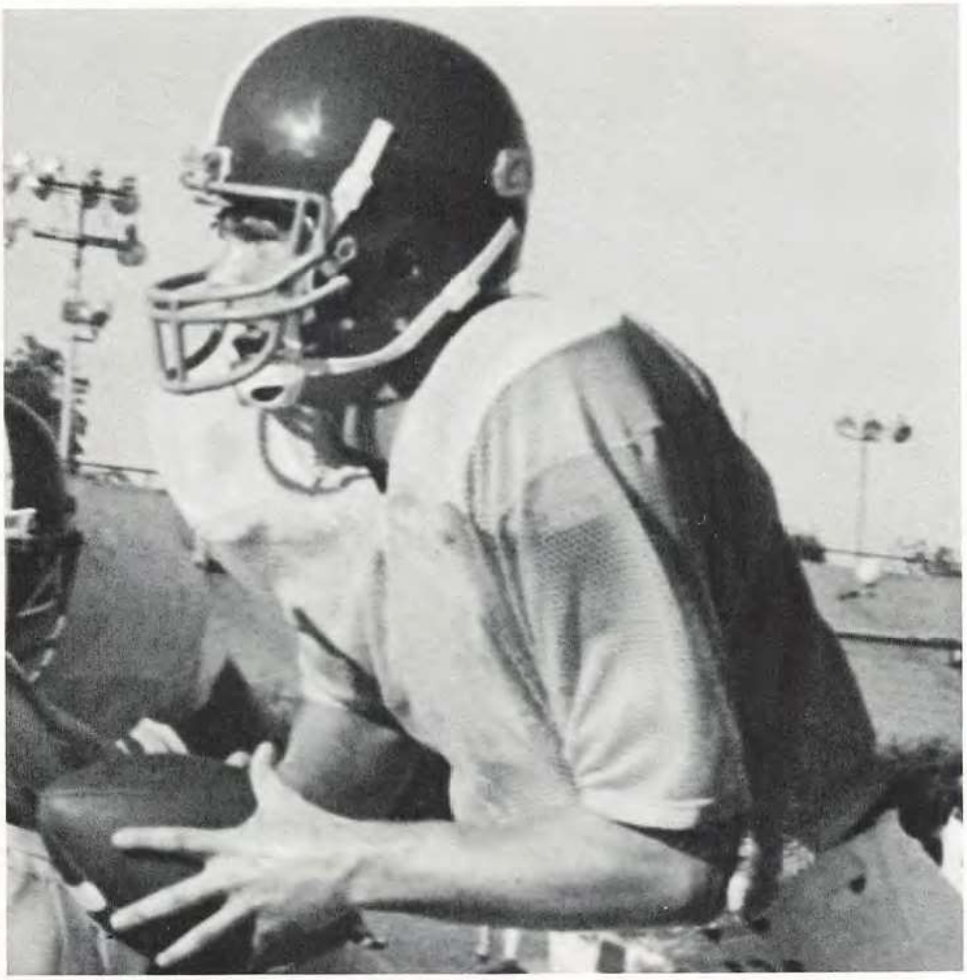
have allowed coach Bryant to shift Tommy Wilcox back to strong safety (where he was all-Southeastern Conference last year as a freshman), Wilcox showed in the spring that it doesn't take him long to get the feel of offense. If problems occur at quarterback, Wilcox can move from stopper to starter quickly.

The rest of the offensive backfield, as expected, should be a team strong point. Although Ogilvie has missed work, it has been his history to be ready to go on game Saturdays. Kenny Simon has been an eye-popper at the left halfback spot vacated by Jackson. Those three can be expected to start behind Jacobs against Georgia Tech. There is quality talent behind them. At fullback, Roosevelt Wilder has been impressive, although he needs more work at holding onto the football in thick traffic. Joe Jones, Mark Nix and Ben Orcutt have experience at halfback spots. Two freshmen, neither a surprise, will see playing time—Joe Carter and Linnie Patrick. John Hill has logged time at fullback.

Despite the injury to Clark and a slight injury to Keith Marks, things are shaping up at split end. Sprinter James Mallard has showed great improvement in making his reappearance on the football field (he first tried it in 1978). Darryl White is a steady performer. As advertised, two freshmen are making a bid to play—Jesse Bendross and Joey Jones.

Bart Krout appears ready to assume the role predicted for him when he came to Alabama two years ago as a tight end. Bama recently shifted Ry Ogilvie from split end to tight end and he's challenging Earl Collins for a backup spot at tight end. Ry, who missed spring training with illness, had been tabbed as great speed, poor hands, but he's been catching the football very well this fall.

There have been few surprises on the offensive interior line and that's giving coach Bryant his biggest worries. Lack of speed among the front liners is cited as the main area of concern. There have been no complaints about effort and Bama players and coaches are quick to point out that this year's crop of linemen has a tough act to follow. And no stars return, only understudies. On the left side, Eddie McCombs at tackle and Scott Allison at guard are both being pushed by Vince Cowell. All are seniors. On the right side, newcomers to offense, both



Top, senior Alabama quarterback Don Jacobs says that he'll probably never get back to where he was before his knee injury, but Jacobs' fall performance indicates he's very close to his former level. Below, senior halfback Major Ogilvie has spent some fall work out of pads with a slight muscle pull, but he's expected to be full speed by September 6.

Joel Barnes Photos

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sophomores, are making the strongest bids for starting jobs, Doug Collins at guard and Joe Beazley at tackle. Bill Searcey, a senior who has been plagued by injuries in his Alabama career, is pushing at both spots. Senior Joe Robbins is holding off younger men at center. Sophs Steve Mott and Bob Dasher and freshman Mark Jackson are contending.

It would be nice to have an all-veteran offense returning because the Tide faces a team with a new coaching staff in its opener against Georgia Tech. Ogilvie recently pointed out that this meant Bama had little to go on in determining what kind of defense to prepare for "and so we're having to work on about 15 possible defenses we'll face." An out-of-state newsman wondered, "Does this mean you're having to cut things thin?" "Oh, no," Major replied honestly. "It means we're having longer practices. We don't cut things thin around here."

The defense probably knows what it can expect from Tech. The Engineers have a head coach from the professional ranks and a quarterback, Mike Kelley, who can throw the football.

Big things are expected of the defense, and for good reason. Eight starters and a handful of others with experience return.

The secondary, under new assistant coach Louis Campbell, has appeared very strong in fall work. Jeremiah Castille has stepped into the left halfback spot vacated by Don McNeal. A strength of the secondary, in addition to the return of quality performers Wilcox, Jim Bob Harris, Ricky Tucker and Mike Clements, is that several of these can play more than one position in the defensive backfield. It's a difficult place to pick a starting four, but a guess would be Tucker at safety, Wilcox at strong safety and Clements and Castille at halfbacks. Josh Henderson and Jerrill Sprinkle have been impressive, as has Stan Gay, a walkon from Tuskegee. Gay blocked a punt for a touchdown in the first Bama scrimmage.

The secondary acknowledges that much of its success will depend on the expected good play of the front. The ends should be outstanding with E. J. Junior, Gary DeNiro, Mike Pitts and John Mauro all having proved themselves. A couple of the outstanding linebackers signed by Bama this year, Dante Bramblett and Anthony Smiley, are also being worked at end spots.

The interior of the defense has the talent, but much of the talent has been wearing the yellow shirts of Alabama injured. Lyles and Braggs missed the first week of drills, then Scott Homan and freshman Bruce Davis, who had done well, were injured late in the first week. Jackie Cline, Danny Casteel and Randy Edwards have done well at noseguard and tackle spots.

The linebackers, even without last year's leading tackler Boyd in the lineup, have done very well. Randy Scott, a senior, is the leader, but youngsters Roosevelt Hill (sophomore), Steve Booker (freshman) and Robert Russell (soph) have been praised, as has hard-hitting transfer Eddie Lowe. Highly-touted freshman Marcus Hill suffered a knee injury in the high school all-star game and has not been practicing, but Bama doctors are encouraged with his progress and surgery has apparently been ruled out.

Woody Umphrey, as expected, has the punting job sewed up for a third straight year. Peter Kim is probably ahead of Johnny Brooker for placekicking duties. Castille has been impressive returning punts. Kickoff return duties are expected to fall to two of the trio of Castille, Simon and Mallard.

Alabama's fall workouts are frequently interrupted to give Tiders rest and fluids. The Tide reported back in good condition, most important when workouts are often in 90 degrees plus heat.

Joel Barnes Photo

Tiders in the Pros

by Gary Stogner

You can bet Don McNeal remembers the events of April 29, 1980 well. That day in New York City his name was called during the National Football League's annual draft. McNeal, a striking cornerback, was the 21st player picked, a first round draft choice by the Miami Dolphins.

In later rounds, four of McNeal's Crimson Tide teammates who played key roles in the 1978 and 1979 national championship seasons would also be called. Others signed free agent pacts.

"We were happy to get him," a Dolphin spokesman said that day. "He is just what we wanted and we sure hoped he would still be available." Later that day, those same words were spoken by another Dolphin official about another Alabama player.

Hours after McNeal's name had been called, Tide center Dwight Stephenson was drafted by the Dolphins in the second round. There were smiles at one address on Biscyne Boulevard where the Dolphin headquarters are located.

"We couldn't believe he (Stephenson) was still available and we didn't hesitate a bit in drafting him," the Miami official said. As the exhibition season appoached, both McNeal and Stephenson were contenders for starting jobs.

For good reasons (at least two of them), the Dolphins have been pleased with Crimson Tide talent. Take defensive tackle Bob Baumhower and running back-return specialist Tony Nathan for instance. Baumhower, entering his fifth pro season, is an All-Pro mainstay on a young Dolphin defense which last year yielded fewer points than Pittsburgh's awesome unit. Nathan made it big as a rookie in 1979, leading the AFC in punt returns with a 10.9 average return, which earned him All-Pro as a specialist. With Larry Csonka gone, Nathan is expected to be utilized

Tony Nathan is gone from Alabama, but the fleet back still wears number 22 and still makes it to the end zone. Now he performs for the Miam Dolphins of the NFL, one of four former Bama stars in Miami.

more as a running back this year.

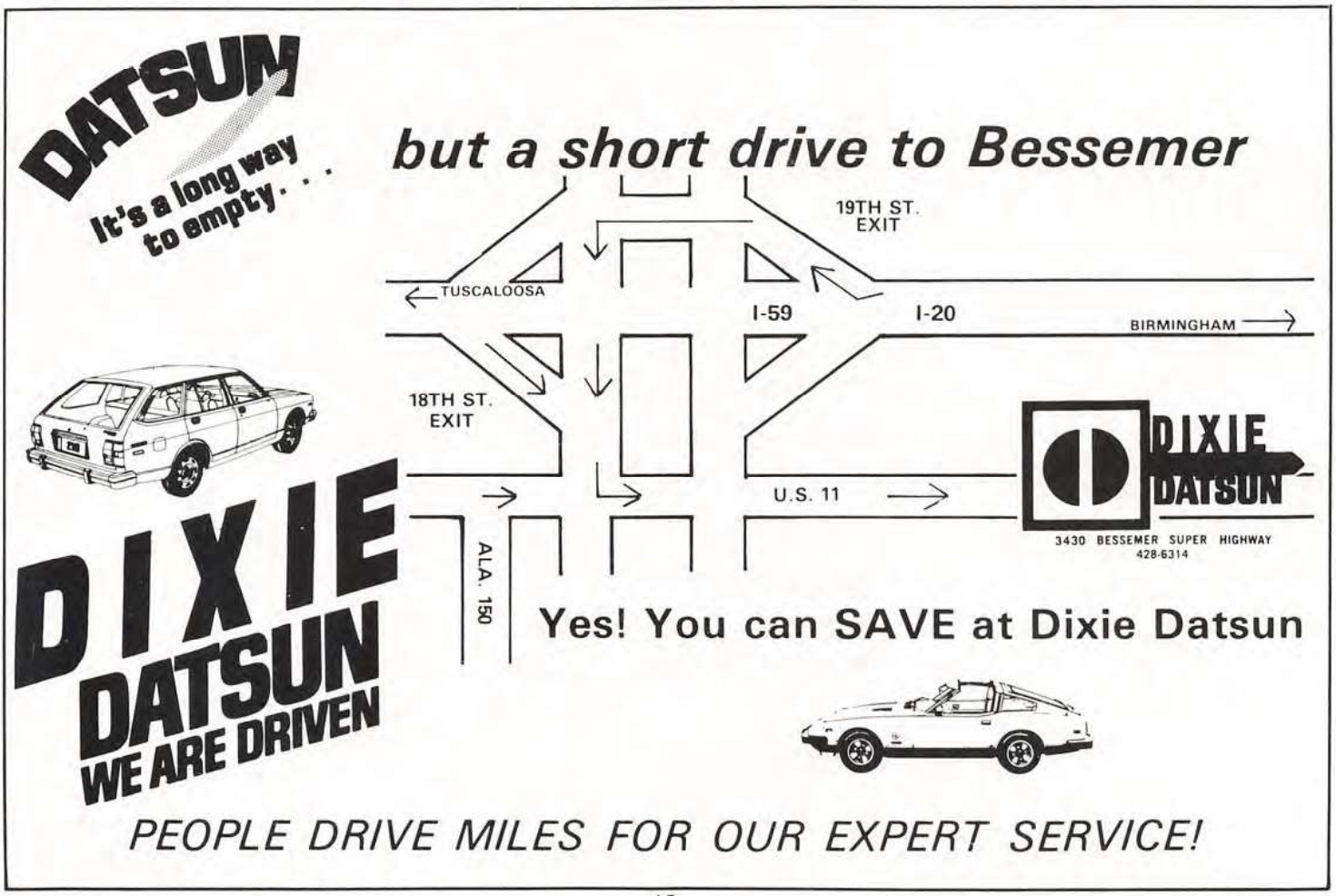
But Alabama's football talent isn't pipelined to South Florida. Other professional clubs have grown rich on Crimson Tide products. Last year's graduating class saw Wayne Hamilton, a defensive end, go to San Diego in the sixth round. He injured a wrist during the pre-season, was placed on waivers and picked up by the Giants. Offensive tackle Buddy Aydelette went to Green Bay in the seventh round. San Diego, sporting the best passing game but second worst running game in pro football, grabbed former Tide fulback Steve Whitman in the ninth round. Reports from the bay area indicate that Whitman has opened some eyes and new hope for the Chargers' rushing game.

Two other members of last year's Alabama squad have done well as free agents. Defensive tackle Curtis McGriff is with the New York Giants and offensive tackle Mike Brock, continuing his Cinderella story, is playing for the Dallas Cowboys, splitting time at center and offensive guard. Brock, of course, walked on at Alabama as a 198-pounder, built himself up to 241 pounds and earned All-SEC honors as a junior and senior.

Snake Stabler has his troubles in his final Alabama game in Texas as the Tide fell to Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl following the 1967 season. But now Kenny is happy at home deep in the heart of Texas as quarterback of the Houston Oilers.

But as each freshmen class which reports to Tuscaloosa, the graduating seniors leaving Alabama have a tough record to measure up to. Alabama's long, rich tradition of winning football has filled professional rosters with a healthy share of talent, all-stars and Super Bowl heroes.

Four former Crimson Tiders were members of the 1979 All-Pro teams. Ozzie Newsome of the Cleveland Browns earned the honor as did New England patriot offensive guard John Hannah. Nathan



made two all-pro teams as a kick return specialist. Baumhower was a second-team mention on another.

Newsome led tight ends in the NFL with nine touchdown receptions. Hannah is said, without argument, to be not only the best offensive guard in football, but also the cleanest. "He's the only guard I know who doesn't hold," San Diego's Gary Johnson said of the former Tide great. "Of course, he doesn't have to."

In Houston, Oiler fans are calling the town "Snake City." The arrival of left handed quarterback Kenny Stabler from Oakland has electrified the town. The New York Jets will ride on the arm of quarterback Richard Todd this season and on defense, there's Marty Lyons. Ken Harris, whose Alabama career was limited to junior varsity play by illness, is a running back with the New York Giants. Barry Krauss started as a rookie last year at Baltimore and with a year's experience, he's being counted on for more time this fall.

In addition to Whitman, San Diego boasts the talents of Woodrow Lowe and former Tider Bob Cryder joins Hannah at New England. Tampa Bay has three Alabama graduates—Johnny Davis, Charley Hannah and Mike Washington. Scott Hunter, a quarterback for the Detroit Lions, retired this summer.

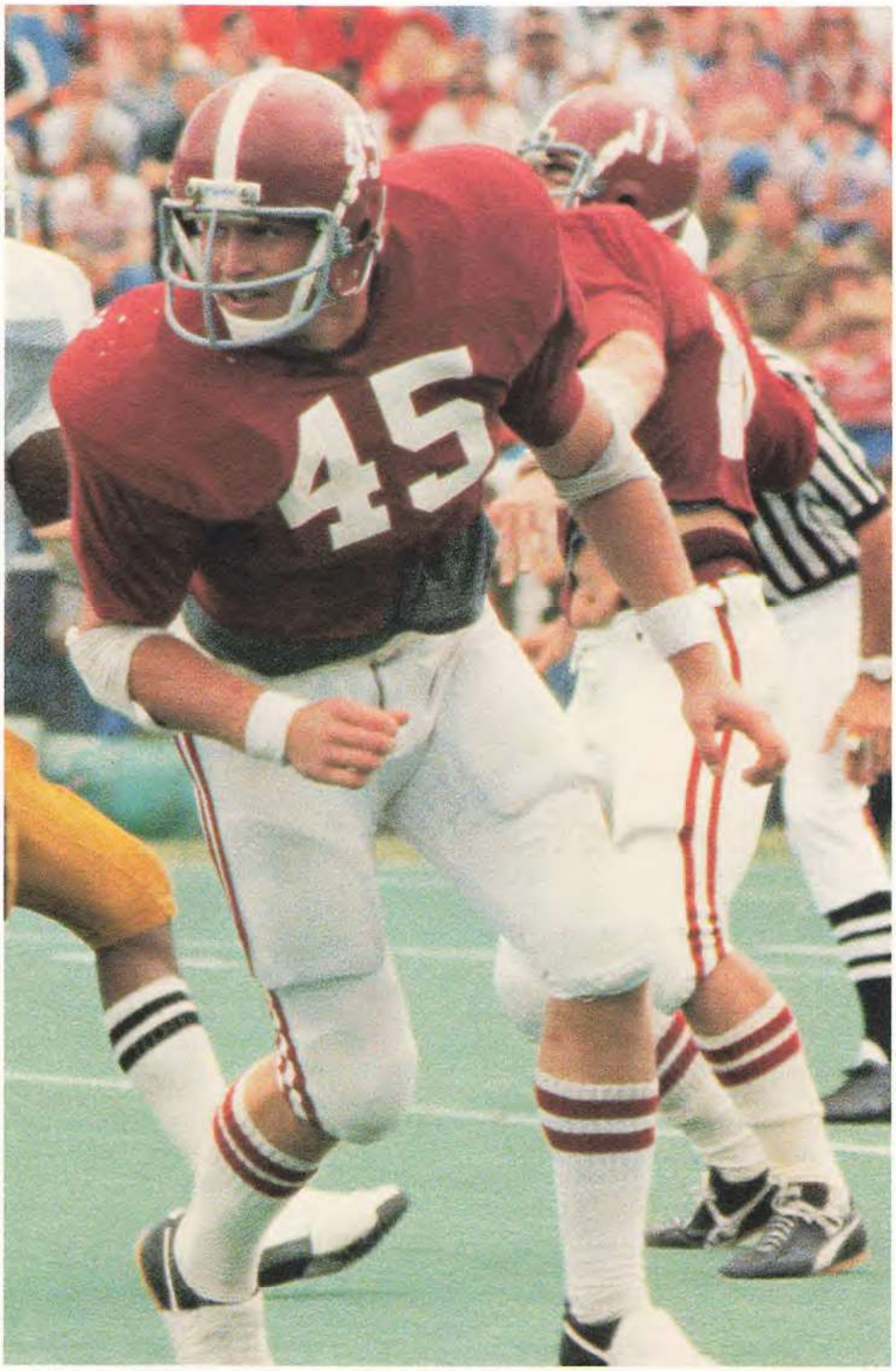
At Green Bay, where former Tide quarterback Bart Starr is head coach, Terry Jones and Rich Wingo join Aydelette. Jones is entering his fourth pro season at defensive tackle and Wingo his second at linebacker. Wingo became an instant hit last year with Packer fans as he set a season record for total tackles.

In Los Angeles, Jeff Rutledge continues to vie for a spot at quarterback but ahead of him are Pat Haden and Vince Ferragamo. In New Orleans, where Tide followers regularly spend New Year's Day, linebacker Paul Harris suits up for the Saints and Wilbur Jackson is hoping to bounce back from injuries to help the San Francisco '49ers. Jackson was the NFL Rookie of the Year in 1974 but lately injuries have kept him from playing an entire season.

Alabama has produced two Pro Football Hall of Famers—end Don Hutson and quarterback Bart Starr. Both played for Green Bay and hold virtually all of the team's receiving and passing records. Hutson led the NFL in pass receiving eight years. Starr led the NFL in passing several times, took the Packers to the first two Super Bowls and threw the first touchdown pass in Super Bowl history.

Without consideration to active players, Alabama's contributions to the Pro Football Hall of Fame could increase two-fold in the near future. Lee Roy Jordan, former linebacker great for the Dallas Cowboys, and Joe Namath, the dashing and bold quarterback of the New York Jets, will soon be eligible. Jordan is already a member of the Cowboys Hall of Fame. Namath passed the AFL out of stepchildhood in Super Bowl III when he engineered, after predicting, a victory over the favored Baltimore Colts.

When talking to NFL clubs, you'll find dozens of reasons why Alabama players are held in high regard. Naturally, athletic ability, size, speed and strength are important. But officials from various teams will cite other reasons which are familiar to Tide followers—descriptions like "well-coached," "we don't have to teach them how to win, they learned that at Alabama," "they have character and class," "they know what it means to work hard," "when you play for the best college coach in the country, you have to have learned something."



Steve Whitman opened holes at Alabama and now he's opening eyes at San Diego.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

Bart Krout:

The Best Is Yet To Come

by Hank Brownstone

Contrary to popular belief in some circles, Bart Krout is not a German who escaped over the Berlin Wall and made his way to America.

He is a University of Alabama junior tight end determined to help build an offensive fortress in front of Crimson Tide runners and passers this football season.

Krout, in shadows most of the time since an outstanding freshman performance in a 24-14 loss to Southern Cal in 1978, is the heir apparent to the starting position opened through the graduation of Tim Travis.

He is also dedicated to the idea of placing himself back in the good graces of Alabama loyals who cheered him so wildly 21 victories ago, the disappointing afternoon he caught a 41-yard touchdown pass in the loss to the West Coast Trojans.

"This season is a fresh start for me," Krout said the day before Alabama opened preseason practice. "I have set my mind right and have myself in the best physical condition I have ever been in. Nothing can hold me back now—I hope."

Alabama fans must smile on those words spoken by the 6-foot-3, 223-pound Birmingham native, first because the Crimson Tide needs championship effort in its depleted offensive line, and second because that means Krout is planning to live up to the billing afforded him when he graduated from Berry High School and put his name on a long-waiting scholarship in Tuscaloosa.

When Krout signed with Alabama, after a lengthy decision-making process, he was considered the best prospect in his home state and was therefore ticketed for instant stardom. In his first six games, all played behind starting tight end Rick Neal, he appeared headed for the greatness predicted for him. Then came a fateful afternoon at Knoxville against Tennessee, when he broke a bone in his knee. The injury sidelined him the remainder of the season and the following spring practice. Last year, he struggled, although he did see action on 360 plays as a backup to starting tight end Travis, and seemed to tail off at the end of the season.

"I did not get in good shape for last season," Krout says. "I was a little disappointed with myself. I think I let the team down some and that made me do a lot of thinking.

"I have not heard anybody talking about my performance last year, but that would not bother me now. I have played behind two great tight ends in Neal and Travis and now I am ready to give my best to help our team win. As long as we win and I do my best, that is all that matters.

"The injury I had as a freshman has made me readjust my approach to football. Before the knee got hurt, I was never one to lift weights much. Now, I know I have to do that to get better. It has helped me as a player.

"Up to now, that game against Southern Cal is my favorite. We lost it, sure, but we went on to win the National Championship that year. That was my first touchdown, which is always a highlight, and that game gives me something to try to better.

"I worked harder this summer than I ever have in my life. I plan to have a good year."

A good year at Alabama is measured by National Championship standards. Krout smiles when looking at two diamond rings already won. He calls them reminders that he made the right choice of schools, no matter if hardships have presented themselves in his stay with the Crimson Tide.

"God told me to sign with Alabama, so I am perfectly content where I am," Krout says.

Krout got that message as he con-

Bart Krout listens to pre-game instructions from Tide assistant coach Bobby Marks, along with rival Larry Brown. Spectrum-Southeast Photo

templated taking his talents elsewhere, "probably to Georgia." In fact, he had just about decided to sign with anybody except Alabama.

"I guess I got caught up in the recruiting rat race and got a little fatheaded," Krout says. "It is true that I was about to sign with Georgia. I thought I had put the thought of signing with Alabama aside, when it was really in the back of my mind.

"The decision of who to sign with was all mine, but my little sister, Kay, and my parents used influence on me.

"Kay, who was 11 at the time, said if I went any place other than Alabama, she would not cheer for me. She is a super Alabama fan, so I knew she meant it. That troubled me some.

"We had an Alabama rug in our living room at home and my mother took it up and stored it until I made up my mind. She said she would leave it stored if I picked a school other than Alabama.

"Needless to say, it was a hard time for me.

"I was confused about the whole thing, so I decided to let God decide for me. Sure enough, He gave me an answer during halftime of a high school basketball game against Woodlawn.

"Woodlawn was beating us pretty good, so my mind was drifting in the dressing room. I was just sitting there thinking about my decision of schools and started feeling down. When that happens, I pray about it. I let my mind flow free and asked God to help me.

"After a minute or two, God told me that I should go to Alabama, which was all I needed to hear. That night, I called (assistant head) coach Ken Donahue and told him I was ready to sign. I told him I wanted to do it as soon as possible, that I would be in Tuscaloosa bright and early the next morning. Whew, I was anxious to get it over with.

"I also told my family about my decision. My mom and dad hugged my neck—boy were they happy—and my little sister hurried to the closet and pulled out that Alabama rug. She had it back on the living room floor before I knew what was happening.

"I guess you could say my mind had wandered some, but I got my priorities back in order. I know I made the right decision for two reasons: God told me to sign with Alabama and I have two National Championship rings as proof."

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Krout and other freshmen from the 1978 season have rare opportunities. They can be a part of an unprecedented third straight National Championship and, the next leg complete, can win National Championships in all four of their years at Alabama.

"That can happen," Krout says. "We have to win the third one first, of course, but the National Championship is always the goal. If we win all of our games, we will have a high chance of being number one at the end of this season.

"Why does Alabama win championships? I think the big reason is we play as a team. There is no drifting or straying by individual players. We are one big unit with the same idea."

Every team, big or small, close or shaky, has leaders and Krout seems on the verge of becoming one at Alabama. He admits he is more mature than he was a freshman and he views himself as a veteran in a relatively inexperienced offensive line.

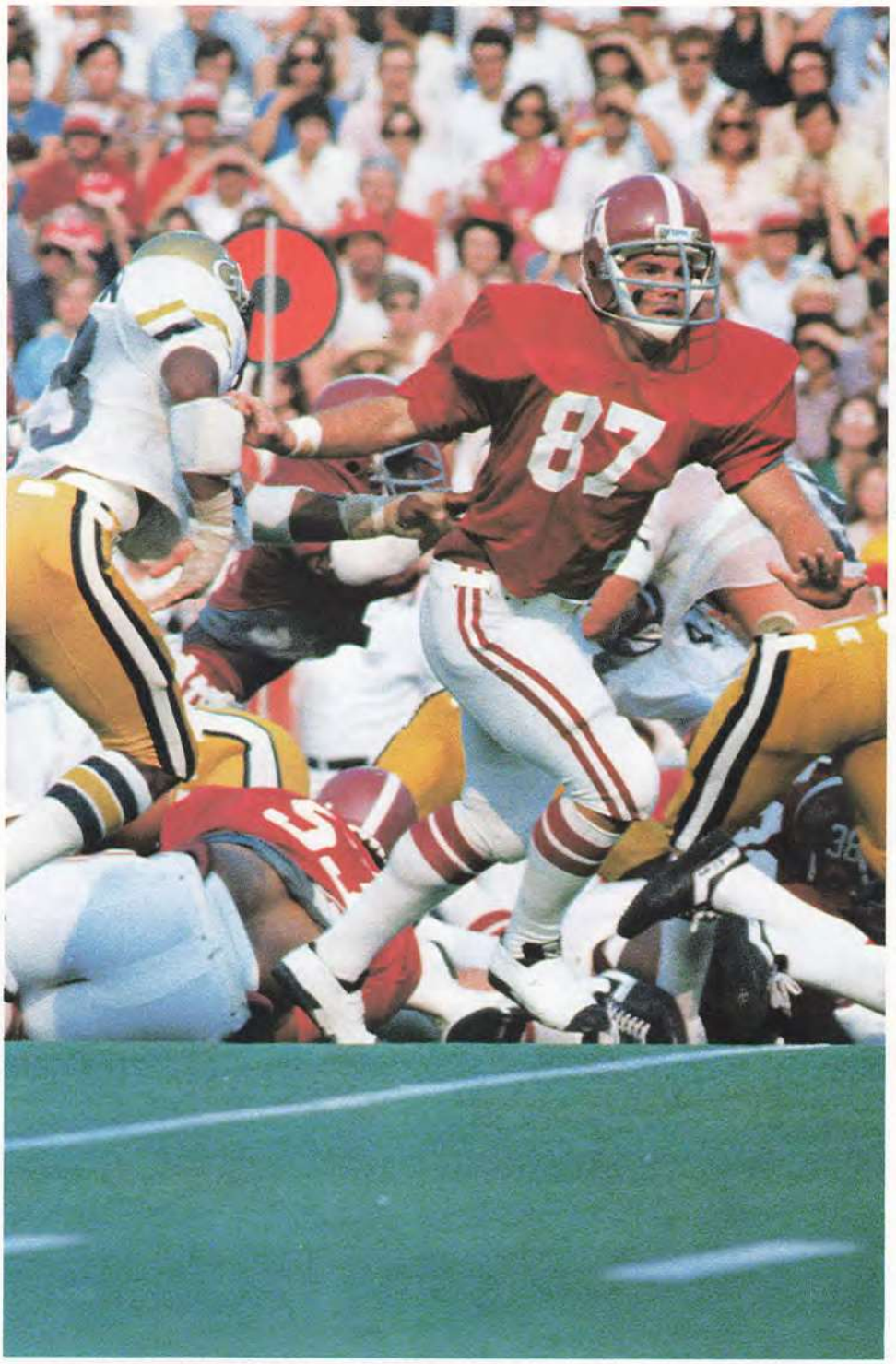
"When I first arrived at Alabama, I was in awe of everything around me," Krout said. "I walked around with my eyes wide open. Everything was, 'Wow, this is Alabama. Gee whiz, there is Denny Chimes. Gosh, look at that huge stadium.' I had a hard time believing I was a part of it all.

"I still have that same feeling deep inside, but the 'wow' of it has worn off. I have seen just about everything there is to see as a player. I am more comfortable with it all. I have gained some valuable experience."

Now if Krout can just help his offensive line teammates develop stature, come of age and fill seven pairs of large shoes across the front of the Alabama attack.

"Our offensive line will be ready to play this year," Krout says. "We might not be as good as those guys were last year, but not many groups are. We have worked hard to get ready. In spring practice, we worked against our number one defense, which is great. That helped us all mature a lot. People who think we do not have an offensive line will be surprised once the season starts."

Krout cannot expect an easy route to the starting position at tight end, although he is the favorite to nail down the job. He faces opposition from Larry Brown, a sophomore from Pembroke Pines, Florida, and sophomore Earl Collins from Moible.



Junior tight end Bart Krout hopes that in 1980 he breaks into his own as a winning performer for the Crimson Tide.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

Brown saw a lot of action last year as a freshman, 250 plays, and made several nice blocks and pass receptions during spring practice. He is 6-foot-3 and weights 225 pounds.

Collins, 6-foot-1 and 195 pounds, was a running back for the Alabama junior varsity last season, gaining 194 yards on 41 carries. He was moved to tight end during spring practice, a ploy by Alabama coaches that caught the attention of Krout.

"No doubt, Larry Brown and Earl Collins will push me and that should help make me a better player," Krout says. "but I will do my best, no matter who is behind me. My plan is to work hard, take things in stride and hope for the best."

For Krout, the best should be yet to come.

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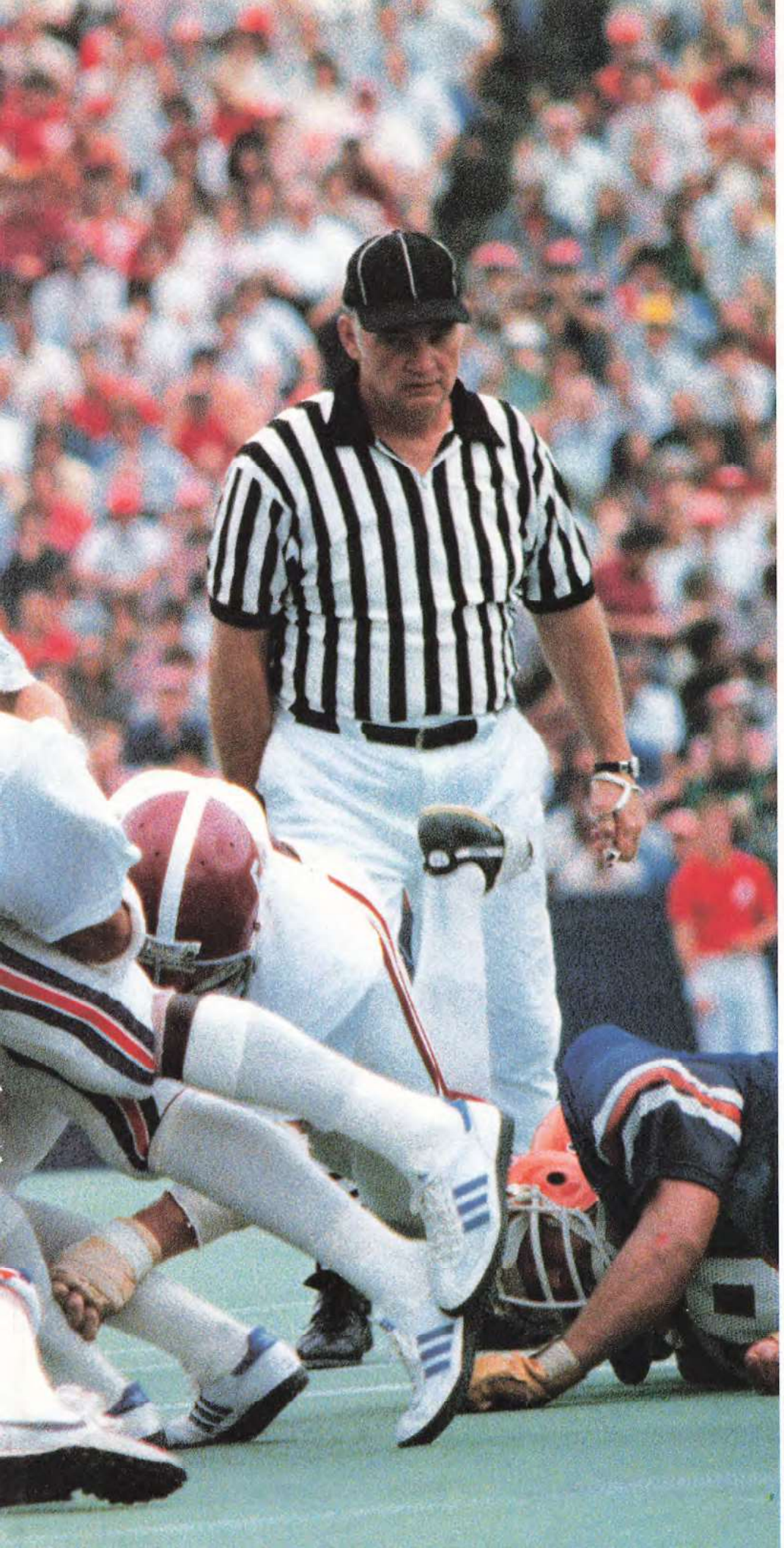

Gary DeNiro: Alabama's Other End

by Kirk McNair

For about as long as the football has been thrown, Alabama has been a successful passing team. Even during the wishbone era of the seventies, the Crimson Tide has been known as a dangerous passing team—including setting an NCAA record in 1973 when Bama averaged 13.4 yards per attempt.

And throughout the history of Alabama football there seems to have been an "other end." It began when Paul Bryant played on the right side, the incomparable Don Hutson on the left. Hard as it is to believe now, Bear Bryant was so unknown as to be the answer to the trivia question: "Who's the other end on Alabama's football team?"

Most often "the other end" has been an offensive player, the man opposite a Wayne Wheeler or Ozzie Newsome or Ray Perkins.

This year's "other end" is on defense, Gary DeNiro. He's replacing one All-America, Wayne Hamilton, and playing opposite another, E.J. Junior.

Gary laughs at the suggestion that he might be a bit jealous of all the pre-season attention afforded E.J. "It doesn't bother me that E.J. gets the publicity," insists Gary. "He's deserved it. Heck, if anyone had played like he has for the last three years they'd get it. I'd sure rather see him get it than someone we're playing against."

DeNiro's position coach, Sylvester Croom, could have predicted that attitude. "Gary is really a team player," says Croom, himself an All-America during his playing days at Alabama. "You couldn't ask for a better man for your team. He has a great attitude and love for the game; he loves to play football and he's a tough competitor who is out there to win on every play in practice and in games."

Starting won't be a new experience for the senior from Youngstown, Ohio. Although Hamilton was a three-year

regular, the last two seasons he split both playing time and starting time with DeNiro. "He's always considered himself a starter and always played like one," points out coach Croom. "He's done a great job for us whether he started or came on in relief."

Prior to the 1979 football season, a national magazine commissioned a highly-regarded novelist, Richard Price, to write a story on coach Bryant. Price was interested that Alabama's roster would include a young man from Youngstown, "definitely Ohio State turf." Gary told him that he went to Alabama because he "didn't like Woody Hayes's coaching that much" and was "always an Alabama fan. I like that the coach plays a lot of guys who are small. Up North, they play bigger people. Coach Bryant plays the people who want to play."

There's a little more to it than that. Gary's brother, Mike, was an All-America performer at Texas A&M in the late 1960s. A teammate of his with the Aggies was Curley Hallman. One of Mike's coaches was Dee Powell. When Gary finished his career at Chaney High School both Hallman and Powell were members of the Alabama staff. Both were aware of the attitude and desire of Mike, who tragically was killed in an automobile accident following his junior season.

"Once Alabama wanted me, I didn't have any trouble making up my mind," says Gary.

Gary gives "some credit for anything I accomplish to Mike. I don't want to let him down. He built such a good name."

Gary was redshirted in 1977, but despite the fact he wasn't playing he probably felt more pressure as Alabama approached its bowl game than any man on the team. Bama met Ohio State in the 1978 Sugar Bowl. "It was just like I was in the game for 60 minutes, like in the old days," Gary laughs. "I was home because it was the first time I had been able to go home since summer and I watched it on television. Man, I was glad when we put it away. All I could think about was what I'd have to put up with if we lost. It makes it a lot easier to live up there when you win."

While DeNiro now has a well-deserved reputation as a hard worker in games and in practice, he admits that it wasn't always so during his redshirt season. "I remember one time I was loafing when I was redshirted, which is a hard time because you practice like everyone else, but come Friday when the team goes you stay home. I was 'putting in a day' as coach Bryant calls it, and he caught me and yelled, 'DeNiro, who do you think you're trying to fool?' And from then on, I never loafed. There's really no place for it on the field."

"... there's no place else I could have gone and been a part of the achievement we have had at Alabama."

Coach Croom agrees. "Gary won the 'Jerry Duncan I Like to Practice Award' in 1979 spring training and that's the kind of attitude he carries into practice every day. He's going out there and trying to improve on every play. If he has a bad day he's the first to recognize it. He's very coachable."

DeNiro admits that now he's glad he was redshirted. "Like everyone else around here, I think that we earned the National Championship in 1977 when we beat Ohio State, but we didn't get it. Now we've won two in a row and since I was redshirted I've got a chance to be a part of winning three in a row—something no other college team has ever done. I guess two hundred teams play for the National Championship, but only one gets it."

Gary is aware that "I could have gone somewhere else and started for three or four years. But there's no place else I could have gone and been a part of the achievement we have had at Alabama. I've got memories to last a lifetime, memories that 99.9 percent of all college football players will never have, those of being a part of those national championships."

He also points to another bonus for having come to Alabama. "Coach Bryant doesn't let you have anything easily and I'm sure that will mean something to me later. You can't let down at Alabama because there's a guy waiting to take your place. I've got to worry about Mike Pitts and maybe a freshman getting my job, and that means work. But I've been a long time waiting to be Number One at my position and I think this will be my best year."

"I think he'll be a success in whatever he tries to do," says Croom. "I know that he takes to heart the things that coach Bryant tells the squad, the lessons that coach Bryant tries to instill in the people in our program. He follows them down the line because he wants to be a winner. And there's no doubt that Gary is aware of the competition at his position. There's been that kind of competition ever since he's been here and I think that it's a healthy situation. It makes all of them better."

Croom was gratified that Gary decided to spend the summer in Tuscaloosa working out with teammates who also stayed on campus during the summer. "I did that because I want to have a good senior season," says Gary. "It's just so much easier to get motivated if you have people around you who are going to work. I know that I did the best job I've ever done of trying to get in shape and I feel that I'm in the best condition I've ever been."

DeNiro worked most of the summer with linebacker Randy Scott and offensive linemen Joe Robbins and Bill Searcey. "Keith Marks was out there too, but I'll admit I have to draw the line somewhere. I couldn't have survived working out with

him. He must put in at least six hours a day. I've never seen anyone more dedicated."

Marks is an offensive end. That's what Gary thought he was going to be when he came to Alabama. "I was recruited as a tight end and really had no idea that I would be anything else," Gary remembers. "Then I was working at tight end, noseguard, linebacker and finally defensive end. I guess for awhile I wanted to get back on offense, but now I don't ever think about it."

Last year in the opener Gary got his chance to show what he could do with a football. "John (Mauro) put a great rush on the quarterback. I was dropping off, covering in the short zone, and the pass came right to me. It had been so long since I had had the football it surprised me and I guess I didn't know what to do. I did a lot of running, but I didn't get very far." DeNiro was credited with an official return of 10 yards and nearly broke the run for a touchdown, getting tripped up by the last man who had a shot at him. "I got so tickled," remembers Croom. "Gary must have set a new record for the longest 10-yard return in history. He was a happy young man. He went back and forth across the field trying to find an opening. We didn't realize how close he had come to going all the way until we saw the film on Sunday."

While Gary may long remember what could prove to be his only run with a football at Alabama, there is no question that his biggest game to this point was the Florida contest in Tuscaloosa in 1978, DeNiro's junior year. Hamilton had been injured earlier in the season and Gary says "there shouldn't have been too much pressure on me since Wayne was temporarily out of the picture. But that was the first game my father (Duke) came to see me play. I was afraid if I played bad he'd never come back to see me again. He tries to make a couple or three a year in person and he sees three or four more on television."

DeNiro certainly gave Dad reason to return. In a tough 23-12 victory Gary turned in eight individual tackles and assisted on two others. Six of his tackles were in the Gators' backfield, losses totaling 20 yards. And he also caused two fumbles. For his efforts he was named Southeastern Conference Defensive Player of the Week.

"Naturally I remember the Florida game because Gary had such a big day," says Croom. "But I guess if there's any one play he's made for us it would have to be a hit he made on LSU's Charles Alexander. Alexander was out on a flair pass in Gary's zone. The ball got to Alexander just before Gary did. It was right in front of our bench and sounded like an explosion. Gary hit him so hard we thought it would knock both of them out. He will hit you. He's not bashful about contact. He doesn't have the speed of a Hamilton or a Junior, but he's got everything else."

It's not often that you will hear of an outstanding football player who has everything but speed and size, but that's the case with Alabama's Gary DeNiro. Joel Barnes Photo

Gary wouldn't agree. "I'm awfully small for a defensive end (6-0, 215)," says DeNiro. "But in some ways it's an advantage. It easy to get leverage on a big man to move him out of the way because I'm already under him. I guess the biggest disadvantage in being small is on the pass rush. But I've knocked down a few passes—low ones over the middle."

Statistically, Gary had a better season as a sophomore in 1978 than he did last year. As a soph he was in on 49 tackles, including 15 for losses of 57 yards, caused two fumbles and recovered another and broke up one pass (presumably a low one over the middle).

Last year he was in on 25 tackles, three for losses totaling 16 yards, caused one fumble and turned in an interception. The difference was an injury suffered in the Tennessee game last year. "I really didn't get over that until the bowl game," remembers Gary, who missed three games with the injury. "It's tough to get an injury during the season."

Gary's not sure what to expect this season, although his goal is that of all others in the Crimson Tide camp—to win the National Championship.

"I know this, we'll work real hard and the coaches will prepare us mentally for every game," he says. "I think we have good personnel and I know that we have team men who recognize that it's a team game. I think the offense is going to surprise some people. I know that before last year, when the offense had everyone back and the defense was rebuilding, our offense wore our defense out in practice. But when we got into the Georgia Tech game the defense had been prepared by our offense. This year I think our defense dominated the offense in the spring, but the offense is in the same position the defense was last year. They may face a defense better than our's, but I don't think it will be often. Our offense has some good athletes. They don't have a lot of experience as a group, but they've got 10 or 11 backs with experience and with those kinds of runners you don't absolutely have to have the kind of line play we had last year.

"I think I improved in the spring and I think the team as a whole improved a little, but the climate was not good for football practice with coach Bryant in the hospital."

DeNiro is not looking past the Georgia Tech game, but admits that all anyone wants to talk about is the Notre Dame game. "I'd like to put that Notre Dame game out of my mind until November, but we've just got to realize that the fans really want that one. We want them all and the biggest one is the next one. Right now that's Georgia Tech."

Beyond this season, Gary will receive his degree in May. He'll get another piece of paper about the same time, a marriage license. Then he hopes to be a coach and a teacher. "I'm not really counting on pro football," he says. "I hope we have a great season and then if we do and I'm offered a tryout I'll probably go, but it's not a part of my future planning."

"I don't know where Gary will end up, but I'd bet that whereever it is he'll be a success," says coach Croom. "He's worked hard for a long time and he's proved he's a winner."

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Tide Injuries Appear To Be Well-Healed

Injuries are an unfortunate part of football. Undoubtedly, it seems to coach Bryant that Alabama has more than its fair share of bum knees, shoulders, hands, etc. He said following spring training that a major determinant in the success of Bama this year would be whether those who were injured last fall and in the spring were recuperated when fall drills got under way.

Apparently, it was a very good summer for getting well.

While most of the attention has been focused on the recovery of quarterback Don Jacobs, who underwent knee surgery in December, there are another couple dozen Tiders that were out of action part of last fall and/or last spring.

Here's an up-date on Tiders as they reported in for fall workouts:

JOE BEAZLEY, offensive tackle who was moved from defense in the spring, suffered a knee injury that sidelined him part of last fall, then was hampered part of the spring with a broken hand. Neither problem required surgery, although it was thought for awhile that the knee might. He reported able to go full speed.

REGGIE BROWN, running back, had a hamstring pull and missed most of the junior varsity season last year as a freshman. He showed no ill effects of the injury when he reported back.

BOB CAYAVEC, offensive tackle who was moved from tight end, suffered a knee injury on the last day of spring practice. He was working from the first day of fall drills and the knee appeared sound,

Ken Coley was leading the nation in punt returns last year as a freshman before suffering a knee injury against Tennessee. Now he's back in good form.

Spectrum-Southeast Photo

but there is some question.

KEN COLEY, quarterback-defensive back who was outstanding as a punt return man, suffered a knee injury and resulting surgery midway through last season. He appears to be sound and the feeling is that he is fully recovered.

RANDY EDWARDS, defensive tackle, missed all of last fall with a kidney ailment but participated in spring drills. He appears much better physically following a summer of conditioning work and has a clean bill of health from his doctors.

GARY DeNIRO, defensive end, missed three games last fall with a knee injury, but was recovered in time to play in the Sugar Bowl and showed no ill effects of the injury in spring training.

MITCH FERGUSON, fulback, has a history of pulled leg muscles. He reported to camp in excellent shape but suffered a slight recurrance of the injury the first day. His history makes this an area of concern.

JAMES HANEY, offensive halfback, suffered a knee injury in high school that required surgery when he came to Alabama in 1977 and he has reinjured the knee on a couple of occasions. He appears sound, but again history casts a shadow.

GREG HAYNES, quarterback, missed last season while recovering from knee surgery. He was able to take part in bowl preparations as scout team quarterback and went through spring drills with no problems.

BILLY JACKSON, offensive halfback, had a thigh problem much of last fall, but showed in the Sugar Bowl (when he rushed for 120 yards) that he was recovered. He has had no recurrance.

PETER KIM, kicking specialist, suffered a groin injury last winter and missed most of spring drills. Although he was beginning to kick normally as fall drills opened, he was somewhat limited. He has a serious injury for a soccer-style kicker. He underwent acupuncture treatment in Korea during the summer.

JAMES MALLARD, split end, is making his second walk-on appearance for the Alabama football team after a star-studded track career. He suffered a pulled hamstring at the NCAA Track and Field championships for the second straight year, but shows no ill effects. He worked out with fellow Tampa resident Alan Gray most of the summer.

EDDIE McCOMBS, offensive tackle, suffered a knee injury on the last day of spring training after having missed much of last fall with a foot injury. He shows no problems with either.

MAJOR OGILVIE, offensive halfback, didn't let an abdominal groin pull affect his play last year. He has recovered from that injury.

RY OGILVIE, split end, missed spring drills with mononucleosis but has recovered.

BEN ORCUTT, offensive halfback, injured his shoulder just before the season-opener in 1979, but was back playing by late season and took part in spring drills with no problems.

DEXTER RUTHERFORD, offensive tackle, suffered a knee injury in spring drills but is fine now.

BILL SEARCEY, offensive tackle, suffered a broken ankle in a water skiing accident just before the opening of fall practice a year ago. He is completely recovered from that injury but has a history of injuries.

KENNY SIMON, offensive halfback, missed most of spring football and track season with a toe injury. He has recovered.

RICKY TUCKER, defensive back, has a history of leg problems, including ankles and knees, but appears to be completely recovered going into fall work.

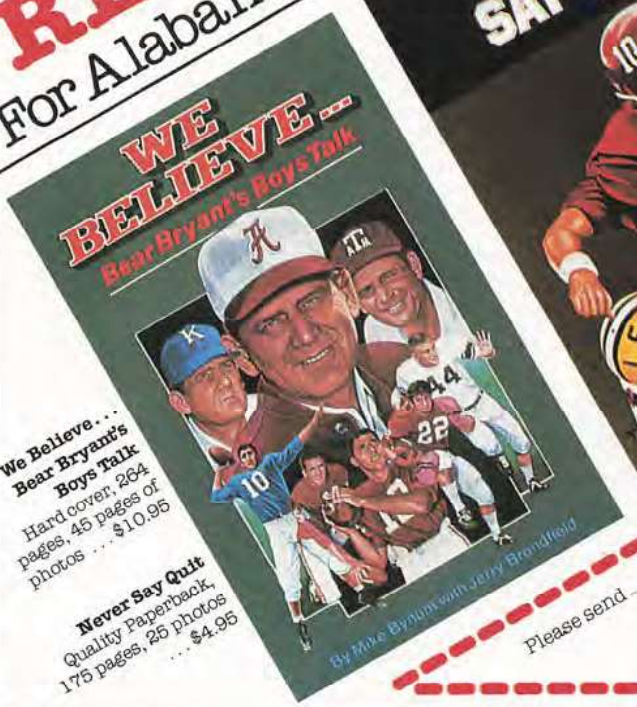
CHARLIE WILLIAMS, fullback, has had several injuries since coming to Alabama, the most recent a spring groin injury. He has recovered from that injury.

PRESS RELEASE:
For Alabama Football Fans

TUSCALOOSA – Mike Bynum has announced the release of his two hottest books off the press. The books are centered around two well known figures of Alabama football – Bear Bryant and Steadman Shealy.

We Believe . . . Bear Bryant's Boys Talk is Bynum's in-depth portrait of Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant. This exciting book is composed of true stories as told by famous players and coaches such as Babe Parilli, John David Crow, Lee Roy Jordan, Johnny Musso, and Steve Sloan – all who have been closely associated with this football giant.

Never Say Quit reveals behind-the-line insight into the making of two-time National Championship quarterback Steadman Shealy. The reader is encouraged and challenged as he follows Steadman from his near career-shattering knee injury to a truly miraculous comeback to become quarterback for the Number One Crimson Tide.



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Letters To The Editor

'BAMA will be pleased to try to answer any questions regarding Crimson Tide athletics. We also welcome any comments or suggestions. Please address any correspondence to 'BAMA Magazine, P.O. Box 6104, University, AL 35486.

Dear 'BAMA:
For the past several months, John Frey, the Atlanta Alumni Chapter, and myself have worked to raise funds to sponsor ALL of the the 1980 'Bama football games over WCGA, 1050 AM, Conyers, Georgia (an Atlanta suburb). We have been successful and would appreciate you printing this letter in 'BAMA so that any of your subscribers in this area can tune in this fall and hear the games.

Joe Welford
Conyers, Georgia

Dear 'BAMA:
Recently my friend and I were talking about the Orange Bowl following the 1971 season. I think Alabama played Nebraska. We both remember Alabama had a defensive tackle that was 5-9 and weighed 180 pounds. His number was 57. Nobody around here believes us; they say he would be too small to play line. Could you possibly check on this for us?

John T. Page
Warrensville Heights, Ohio

Terry Rowell made believers out of a lot of opposing offensive linemen. Terry, from Heidelberg, Mississippi, was listed on Crimson Tide rosters as being 5-11 and weighing 193 pounds However, he was weighed prior to the Alabama-Nebraska Orange Bowl game of January 1, 1972 and weighed in at 169 pounds. Terry was a middle guard as a starter in 1969, then shifted to tackle when Alabama changed from a five-man front to a four-man front prior to the 1970 season. He started at left tackle in 1970 and 1971. As a senior in Alabama's 11-1 campaign he was the team's fifth-leading tackler with 65 stops, had nine tackles for lost yardage of 39 yards, tied for the team high with three fumble recoveries, caused a fumble and broke up a pass.

Dear 'BAMA:
Could you please publish a numerical Alabama football roster? Those of us who only get to see Bama on television would like to have all of the numbers as the announcers don't mention all of the players.

Pete Lewter
St. Petersburg, Florida

The University of Alabama athletics department requests exclusive use of its numerical roster in order to protect its game program sales and 'BAMA adheres to that request. For those wishing an Alabama numerical roster, programs may be ordered at $2 each from the Alabama Sports Information Office, P.O. Box K, University, AL 35486. Make checks payable to University of Alabama. Programs will be mailed the week following the game.

Dear 'BAMA:
You made several references to the Alabama press guide in your Letters to the Editor section in the August 'BAMA. Are these guides available to the public?

Ralph McWilliams
Maryville, Tennessee

Yes, at $4 each from the Alabama Sports Information Office, P.O. Box K, University, AL 35486.

Dear 'BAMA:
I know that Alabama has won more Southeastern Conference football championships than any other school, but can you give me the exact breakdown?

Will James
Birmingham, Alabama

By winning eight of the past nine SEC championships, Alabma has now taken the title 17 times—14 outright championships and three shared—in the 47 years it has been awarded. Outright Alabama championships came in 1933, 1937, 1945, 1953, 1964, 1965, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1977, 1978 and 1979. Bama shared the title with Tulane in 1934, with LSU in 1961 and with Georgia in 1966. Georgia and Tennessee have each won eight titles (five outright, three shared). Ole Miss has won six, LSU five (one shared), Kentucky two (one shared), Mississippi State and Auburn one each. Florida and Vanderbilt have yet to take a crown. Former member Sewanee not only didn't win a championship but didn't win one of its 37 games in eight years of SEC play. Tulane won one championship and tied for two others before leaving the SEC after 1965, while Georgia Tech won three titles and tied for three others before withdrawing from the league after 1963. Alabama's all-time SEC record is 218-79-19, a winning percentage of .720. Tennessee is second with a record of 165-95-16, a winning percentage of .627. Alabama is the only team with a winning record against all SEC opponents.

Dear 'BAMA:
I know that Alabama's game with Ole Miss will not count in the SEC standings this year, but will it count in the all-time SEC standings? Has there ever been a game before between two conference teams that did not count in the standings?

Benjamin Cohen
Montgomery, Alabama

Alabama's game with Ole Miss on September 20 will be treated as a non-conference game in every respect. It will not only not be a factor in determining this year's league champion or Sugar Bowl representative, but will not be included in the all-time standings or the all-time intraconference record (i.e., Alabama's current 9-3-1 record against Ole Miss in SEC games will not be affected by the outcome of the 1980 game). Mark Womack of the SEC office says that his office's research indicates that the only previous meetings of conference teams which were treated in this manner in football have been bowl games, such as the 1964 Alabama-Ole Miss Sugar Bowl game.

Dear 'BAMA:
I have recently moved to Houma, Louisiana from Geneva, Alabama. I have kept up with Alabama football for years. If you happen to have an information about any radio stations in southeastern Louisiana that broadcast Alabama football games, would you please inform me?

Pat Martin
Houma, Louisiana

Alabama's football network changes to some extent every week, particularly out-of-state. Alabama will be on the Pick of Dixie Network several times during this season, but the exact games have not yet been determined. The NBC network is expected to broadcast at least two Bama games. ABC is also going to have at least two Alabama games on television. And ESPN is expected to telecast as many as three Alabama games on a delayed basis where that sports cable system is available. Additionally you may be able to hear some games on the network of the Alabama opponent, albeit that's usually not as good for a fan as hearing your own team's network.

Tide Honors Last Wade Team

by Kirk McNair

While Alabama is unquestionably in its greatest period of success today under coach Paul Bryant, it is not the first great era of Crimson Tide football. Bama was established as a national football power under coach Wallace Wade.

Coach Wade, a Brown graduate, took over the Alabama head coaching reins in 1923 and held them through the 1930 season. He turned in a record of 61-13-3, went to the Rose Bowl three times and had three undefeated seasons, including his final year.

That last team went 10-0-0, including a 24-0 victory over Washington State in the Rose Bowl, and outscored the opposition 271-13 during the course of the season. Alabama's toughest battle that year was a 12-7 victory over Vanderbilt in Birmingham.

This year, when Bama meets Vanderbilt in Tuscaloosa on September 27, the 1930 team will be honored during its 50th anniversary by coach Bryant and the athletics department. (In 1975, when Bama played Washington in Tuscaloosa, members of the 1925 team, Alabama's first Rose Bowl team, were honored in the same manner for their 20-19 victory over Washington in the 1926 Rose Bowl.)

The members of the 1930 team will be hosted at a banquet Friday night before the game, take part in a public reception Saturday morning and lunch with University president Dr. Howard Gundy before the game. At halftime each team member will be introduced on the field.

Jeff Coleman, who has been actively involved in Crimson Tide athletics from the Wade era through the present, is coordinating the event.

Who is this fellow with the nice head of hair? It's Frank Howard, an outstanding guard for the 1930 Crimson Tide team who went on to fame as coach at Clemson University.

Alabama's 1930 team was coach Wallace Wade's last Crimson Tide. Bama capped an undefeated season with a 24-0 win over Washington State in the 1930 Rose Bowl.

Coach Wade, who left Bama for Duke and who is still resides on his farm in Durham, North Carolina, plans to attend, as he did for the 1925 team reunion.

Players on the 1930 team expected to attend the reunion are Joe Bellini Jr., William W. Brown, Joe Causey, Edgar Dobbs, Albert Elmore, Jesse Eberdt, Raymond F. Hansen, Frank Howard, Ellis Houston, Max Jackson, Leon Long, John Miller, Hugh Barr Miller, Fred Sington, W. Comer Sims, John Henry Suther, John Tucker, Fred Melvin Hutcherson, Frank H. Kendall, James E. Money, Moses M. Swaim and Robert V. Turner.

In addition to coach Wade, two of his assistant coaches—Paul Burnum and Jess Neely—will attend.

Alabama had been in something of a slump prior to the 1930 season, going 5-4-1 in 1927 and 6-3 in both 1928 and 1929. It was announced before the season started that 1930 would be Wade's last year.

If there was any doubt as to what kind of team this Alabama team was going to be, one would have thought that it would have been answered in the first three games—shutout victories over Howard (43-0), Mississippi (64-0) and Sewanee (25-0). However, Bama had opened with three straight shutouts in 1927, two straight in 1928 and two of its first three in 1929. Then, as now, the true test was Tennessee, and the Vols had a three-game winning streak going against Alabama.

On the third Sunday in October, then-Captain Robert Neyland brought his Volunteers into Tuscaloosa seeking a 34th straight game without a loss. Alabama's 18-6 victory was the only loss Tennessee would suffer that season—and, in fact, the only loss for the Vols in a six-year period, 1927-32. (The Vols' next loss would be in 1933—to Wallace Wade's Duke team, 10-2.)

The next week in Birmingham Bama struggled by Vanderbilt, 12-7, then coasted through the remainder of the regular season without being scored upon.

Alabama thus earned its third Rose Bowl invitation. Previous trips to Pasadena had resulted in the historic 20-19 victory over Washington in Bama's first ever bowl appearance following the 1925 season and a 7-7 tie with Stanford after the 1926 campaign.

Whatever else he may have been—and those who know insist he was the toughest taskmaster in Alabama coaching history—Wade was apparently somewhat less a poor-mouther than the man who carries on Alabama tradition as head coach today.

Wade announced on New Year's Eve that he planned to start his second team. The writers were incredulous. But Wade, who felt Alabama was two touchdowns better than Washington State, meant it and, in fact, did open with his second unit. Some 60,000 watched the next day as the Tide, typifying the personality of the coldly efficient strategist Wade, ran roughshod over Washington State, 24-0.

The Cougars held the upper hand most of the first quarter but didn't come close to scoring. Late in the period Wade inserted his first string and things began to pop.

After 13 straight plays on the ground, from its own 39, Bama's left end, Jimmy Moore, turned and sped into his own backfield. He received the ball from

fullback John Cain, took a few more steps, and spiraled a long pass downfield. Left halfback John (Flash) Suther, galloping at high speed, gathered it in smoothly on the Washington State 22 and took it into the end zone.

Bama center Jess Everdt intercepted a Cougar pass on the Washington State 47. Moore again passed, hitting end Ben Smith on the Cougar one. Monk Campbell powered over right guard for the score.

Lightning struck quickly the next time Alabama got the ball. Campbell, on a beautifully set up fake to Moore, shot through left guard. He wiggled free of a State man's clutches and bolted 43 yards to score. The 21 points had come within a stretch of six minutes of the second quarter.

Wade's second team was on the field in the third quarter when the final points were registered. Guard J.E. "Ears" Whitworth, later head coach at Alabama, kicked a field goal from the 30.

Fred Sington was a mainstay of the 1930 Alabama team, being picked to virtually every All-America team and later being named to the Football Hall of Fame.

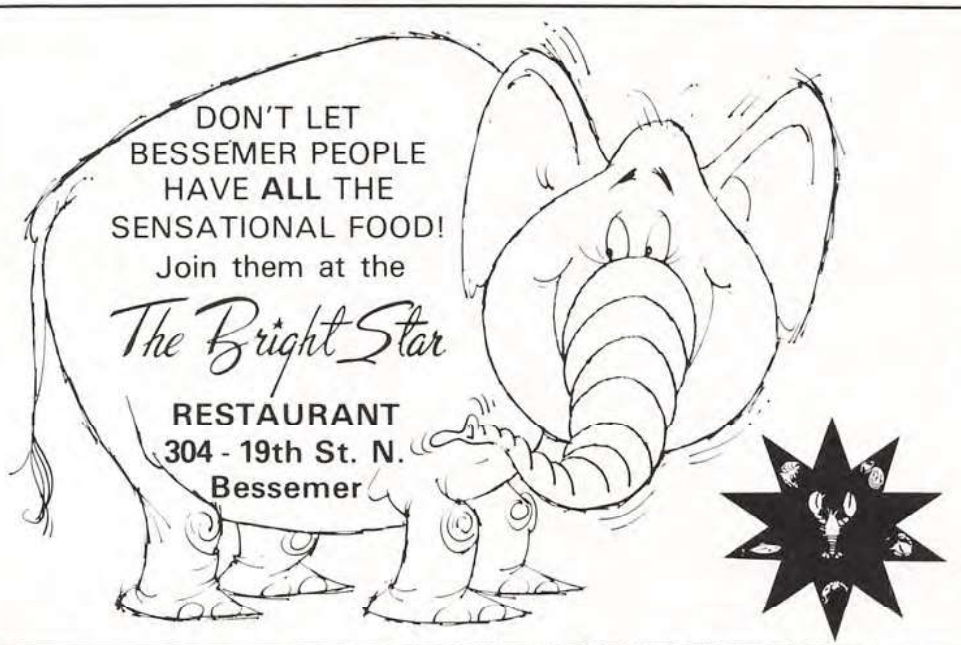
Those who participated with the 1930 team may not be aware of a fringe benefit they may have given the University of Alabama. A couple of Arkansas natives, C.B. "Foots" Clement and John Tucker, and Billy Hicks, who was corresponding with a teacher at Fordyce High School, had helped make an Alabama football fan out of a young Paul "Bear" Bryant.

He was remembering that 1930 team recently:

"When our high school season was over, Fred Thompson, who was an Arkansas coach, invited Ike Murray and me to go with him and watch an all-star game he was coaching in Dallas. We were staying at the Dallas Club. We went out to watch the all-star game on January first and, of course, Alabama was playing in the Rose Bowl game later that day.

"As soon as things quieted down, I got on a streetcar and rode back to town and went up in the room and listened on radio—they didn't have television in those days—to Alabama beat Washington State when Suther and that great bunch were playing."

A few months later Bama assistant coaches Hank Crisp and Paul Burnum were talking to Bryant. Soon thereafter he was in the rumble seat of Crisp's coupe, headed for Tuscaloosa.



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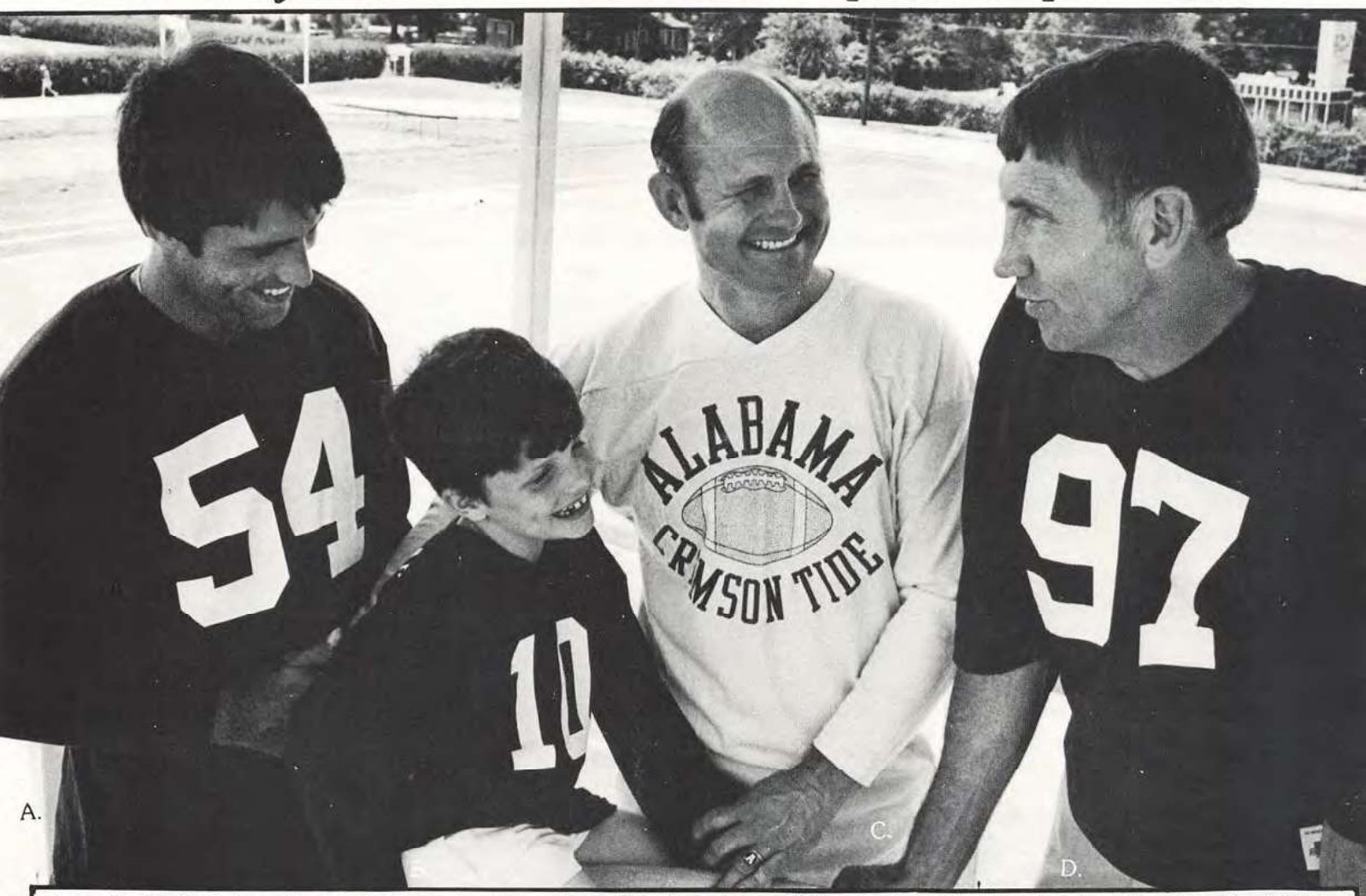

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BAMA SCORECARD

Mississippi MVP

Alabama signee Joe Carter of Starkville, Mississippi, was named Most Valuable Player in the Mississippi High School All-Star Football game as he rushed for 118 yards in 14 carries in leading his team to a 41-0 victory August 2. Last winter, Bama signee Paul Carruth of Summitt, Mississippi, won the MVP award in the Mississippi private school's league.

Alabama All-Stars

Alabama signed 17 in-state football prep stars last year and 15 of them were selected for this year's all-star game. The only ones not selected were Chuck Fields (who played in the private school's association and wasn't eligible) and Anthony Smiley. Two of those have been ruled academically ineligible for football this year (Alan Underwood and Jeff Bohannon), although both are expected to enter Alabama and gain eligibility later, as Warren Lyles did a few years ago. Others selected who are with Alabama are split end Joey Jones, lineman Mike Adcock, Jim Ivy, Doug Vickers and Thomas McCrary; linebackers Steve Booker and Marcus Hill; quarterbacks Paul Fields (who missed because of a wrist injury suffered playing baseball), Andy Martin (who missed the game because of a shoulder injury suffered in practice) and Walter Lewis; running backs Scott McRae and Linnie Patrick; and defensive back Jay Grogan. Patrick suffered an injury to his thumb in practice but played in the game, while Hill suffered a sprained knee during the game that has kept him from Alabama practice. The general feeling in the Alabama camp is that it was nice to have so many to be able to observe them in practices and the game and that if the Tide had to do it all again it would sign all of them. There was particular pleasure in the play of Lewis at quarterback, Booker at linebacker and Jones both as a receiver and return man. Alabama admits it should have pursued running back Sam DeJarnette of Selma earlier. The Auburn signee was named the game's outstanding back.

Basketball MVP

Alabama signee Eric Richardson of Birmingham Carver, a 6-3 guard, was a unanimous choice as Most Valuable Player in Alabama's 3A-4A All-Star Basketball game. Richardson hit 10 of 18 field goals and two of two free throws for a game-high 22 points and also had four rebounds and four assists to lead his team to a 70-63 win. Terry Williams, 6-8 forward, played in a losing cause in the 1A-2A game with five of 11 field goals and four of five free throws for 14 points and had 11 rebounds, four assists, three blocked shots and three steals.

Swim Signees Shine

Max Metzker, a distance freestyler from Australia who signed with Alabama, won the bronze medal in the 1,500 meters at the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow with a time of 15:14, his best ever by 10 seconds. Glenn Mills of Cincinnati, a breaststroker who signed with Bama, won the 200 meters championship in the United Sates Olympic Team trials and represented the United States on a tour of China. Bama coach Don Gambril was head coach of that team.

Relative Walkons

There are some familiar names among Alabama's walk-on football players this

Former University of Alabama defensive back Mike Dean is now living in Atlanta. When the Atlanta area Alabama Alumni Association had its summer meeting with Bama assistant coaches presenting an outlook for the season, Mike checked to see if he could attend. No way, said the alumni association. It's not that Mike hasn't paid his dues; it's the fact that he's now defensive coordinator for Alabama's opening opponent, Georgia Tech.

fall. Mike Brock's brother, Jim; Woody Umphrey's brother, Jeff; and Andy Gothard's cousin, Preston Gothard, are all trying to win a place with the Crimson Tide. Both Mike Brock and Andy Gothard were walkons who earned scholarships and starting status with Bama.

Surfin' and Baseball

Bama baseball will go to Hawaii this season and the Crimson Tide is hoping to take some fans along. Coach Barry Schollenberger and All-Seasons Travel have combined on a package that includes seven days and six nights on Waikiki Beach March 4-10. For information write All-Seasons Travel, 1030 15th Street, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. Bama will play six games in Hawaii.

Basketball Schedule

Five of Alabama's Southeastern Conference basketball games will be televised this season, four of them home games. Televised games from Tuscaloosa are January 3 against Tennessee, January 17 against Kentucky, February 18 against Georgia and February 28 against Vanderbilt, while the January 24 game at Florida will be aired in Southeastern regional telecasts.

Bama's complete schedule has the Tide opening in Tuscaloosa against Northern Iowa November 28. December games are Wisconsin on the first, Florida Southern on the third, at LaSalle on the sixth, Texas Tech in Birmingham the 13th, Western Carolina the 15th, at the Cable Car Classic in Santa Clara with Santa Clara, Wake Forest and Ole Dominion the 19th and 20th, at Vanderbilt the 27th. January games are Tennessee the third, at Mississippi State the seventh, at Ole Miss the 10th, LSU the 14th, Kentucky the 17th, at Georgia the 21st, at Florida the 24th, Auburn the 28th, at Tennessee the 31st. February games are Mississippi State the fourth, Ole Miss the seventh, at LSU the 11th, at Kentucky the 14th, Georgia the 18th, Florida the 21st, at Auburn the 25th and Vanderbilt the 28th.

The SEC tournament will be March 4-7 at the Birmingham Civic Center Coliseum. All tournament games will be televised.

Women's Schedules

The sixth annual Alabama Invitational Volleyball Tournament highlights the September schedule of Alabama women's sports. The tournament will be September 19-20 at Foster Auditorium. Coach Stephanie Schlauder, beginning her seventh season, has seen her team finish second to Central Florida the past two years. In addition to the returning one-two teams entrants include Florida State, Miami, Alabama-Birmingham, South Carolina, Mississippi University for Women, Texas Tech, Clemson and Memphis State. There's also a high school division.

Senior University of Alabama golfer Cecil Ingram finished his tune up for the United States Amateur Championship with a comfortable three-stroke victory in the Alabama State Amateur Championship. Tide coach Conrad Rehling enjoyed watching Cecil, who has one final year of eligibility.

Bama opens its season September 16 at Montevallo. Other September action includes a home match at 7:30 p.m. against South Alabama on September 23 and the MUW Invitational in Columbus, Mississippi September 26-27.

Alabama's women golfers will be in the Susie Maxwell Berning Invitational at the University of Oklahoma September 15-17. The Tide tennis team plays in the Blue Ridge Classic at Middle Tennessee September 26-27.

Women Signees

New Alabama women's basketball coach Ann Cronic has three new signees: Alison Davis, a 5-6 guard from Escambia High School in Pensacola, Florida, who averaged 22 points per game; Terri Hillard, a 5-10 forward from Overton High School in Memphis, who averaged 17.8 points and 13.9 rebounds per game and became the first athlete, male or female, at Overton to score 1,000 points in a season; and Deborah Tipton, a 5-10 forward from Southwest High School in Atlanta, who averaged 17 points and 12 rebounds per game.

New golf signees are Cathleen Crum of Richmond, Indiana, who in addition to being state girls champion (among her 17 titles) graduated first in a class of 534 with a 4.0 average; and Nora Venne of Easthampton, Massachusetts, who was the only female member of her high school's championship team.

New gymnasts are: Cindy Delucas of Vestavia Hills in Birmingham, second all-round in the state high school and USGF meets; and Angie Alexander of Clark Central High School in Athens, Georgia, who was state all-around champion two of the past three years.

New swimming and diving signees are: Jan King of Grissom High School in Huntsville, a backstroker whose marks at 50, 100 and 200 yards are all better than current Alabama women's records; Carol Landry of Eastern High School in Louisville, Kentucky, a middle distance freestyler whose 200 mark is under the current Bama women's record; and diver Drew Gunnels of Albany, Georgia, who is Georgia Junior Olympic Champion, Georgia's Outstanding AAU Diver of the Year, and two-time national YMCA one-meter champion.

SCHEDULES OF TIDE'S 1980 OPPONENTS

DATE	GEORGIA TECH	MISSISSIPPI	VANDERBILT	KENTUCKY	RUTGERS
Sept. 6	**at Alabama**	Texas A&M		Utah State	
Sept. 13		Memphis State	at Maryland	at Oklahoma	at Temple
Sept. 20	Florida	**Alabama**	Miss. State	Indiana	Cincinnati
Sept. 27	Memphis State	Tulane	**at Alabama**	Bowling Green	Princeton
Oct. 4	at No. Carolina	Southern Miss.		**at Alabama**	at Cornell
Oct. 11	Tennessee	at Georgia	Tulane		**Alabama**
Oct. 18	at Auburn	Florida	at Georgia	LSU	Wm. & Mary
Oct. 25	Tulane	at Vanderbilt	Ole Miss	Georgia	at Syracuse
Nov. 1	at Duke	at LSU	at Memphis St.	at Tulane	at Army
Nov. 8	Notre Dame		at Kentucky	Vanderbilt	at Virginia
Nov. 15	Navy	Tennessee	Miami	Florida	West Virginia
Nov. 22		Miss. State	UTC	at Tennessee	Colgate
Nov. 29	at Georgia		Tennessee		

DATE	TENNESSEE	SOU. MISS.	MISS. STATE	LSU	NOTRE DAME
Sept. 6	Georgia	at Tulane	at Mem. State	Florida St.	Purdue
Sept. 13	Southern Cal		La. Tech	Kansas St.	
Sept. 20	Wash. St.	La. Tech	at Vanderbilt	Colorado	Michigan
Sept. 27	at Auburn	at East Car.	at Florida	at Rice	
Oct. 4		at Ole Miss	at Illinois	at Florida	at Mich. State
Oct. 11	at Ga. Tech	at Miss. State	Sou. Miss.	Auburn	Miami
Oct. 18	**Alabama**	Ark. State	at Miami	at Kentucky	Army
Oct. 25	Pittsburgh	**at Alabama**	Auburn		at Arizona
Nov. 1	Virginia	Lamar	**Alabama**	Ole Miss	at Navy
Nov. 8		at Auburn		**at Alabama**	at Ga. Tech
Nov. 15	at Ole Miss	Richmond	LSU	at Miss. St.	**at Alabama**
Nov. 22	Kentucky	Louisville	Ole Miss	Tulane	Air Force
Nov. 29	at Vanderbilt				
Dec. 6					at Southern Cal.

1979 FINAL STANDINGS	Conference	Overall
ALABAMA	6-0-0	11-0-0
Georgia	5-1-0	6-5-0
Auburn	4-2-0	8-3-0
Louisiana State	4-2-0	6-5-0
Tennessee	3-3-0	7-4-0
Kentucky	3-3-0	5-6-0
Mississippi	3-3-0	4-7-0
Mississippi State	2-4-0	3-5-0
Vanderbilt	0 6 0	1-10-0
Florida	0-6-0	0-10-1

AUBURN

DATE	DATE
Sept. 13 at TCU	Oct. 18 Ga. Tech
Sept. 20 Duke	Oct. 25 at Miss. St.
Sept. 27 Tennessee	Nov. 1 at Florida
Oct. 4 Richmond	Nov. 8 Sou. Miss.
Oct. 11 at LSU	Nov. 15 Georgia
	Nov. 29 **at Alabama**

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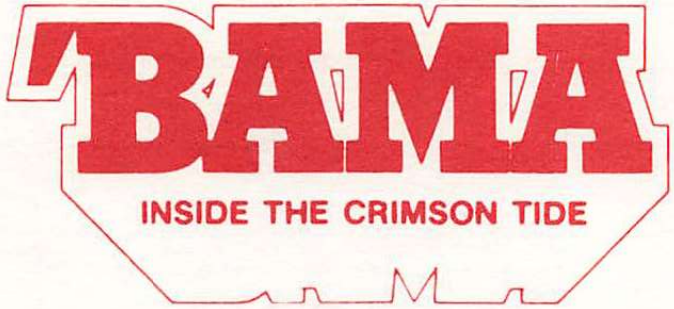

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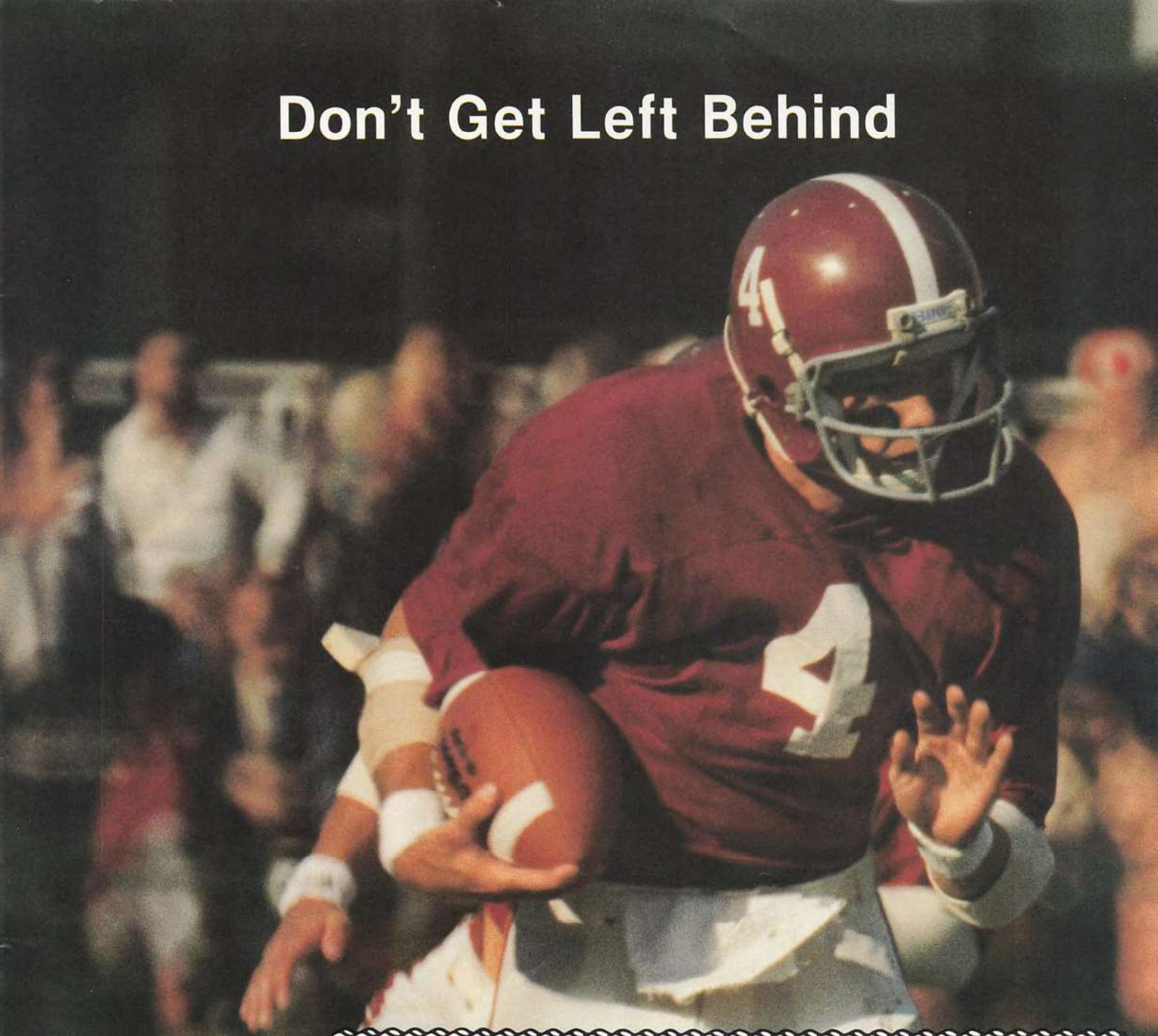

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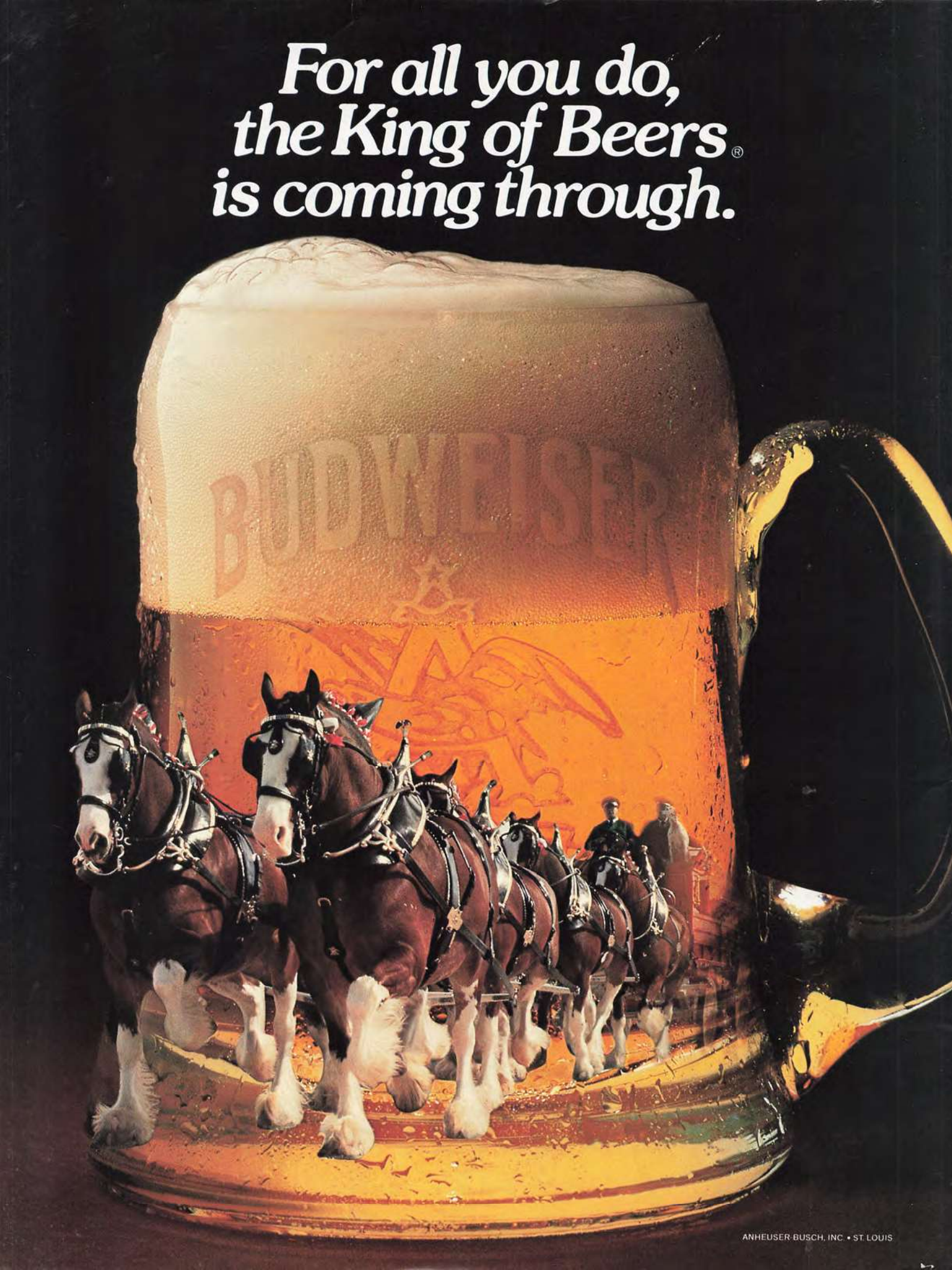

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